

Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council

Meeting Notice

THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD:

October 28, 2008

10:00 AM

Room 313, State House

Providence, Rhode Island

AGENDA

I. Call to Order/Attendance

Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth H. Roberts

Adjutant General, Major General, Robert Bray

RIEMA Director David Smith Alysia Mihalakos

Joseph D. Baker Carol Kent

Kate McCarthy-Barnett Steve Preston

Erin Lambie Michael McDonough

Kevin Blount Thomas Walsh

Ryan Whitehead Mary Oâ€™Rourke

Raymond Sousa Lori Needham

Steven Florio Ray LaBelle

Jim Swanberg Darren Delaney

Peter Gaynor Chuck Larcom

Ronald Winter Vladimir Ibarra

Meeting was called to order at 10:03am.

II. Approval of minutes from September 23, 2008

Minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee reports

A. Comments from the Chairwoman, Lt. Governor Elizabeth H. Roberts

Chairwoman Roberts thanked subcommittee members for providing answers to the survey questions. The questions were presented to members in an effort to enhance the lines of communication and provide a standardized, more efficient and informative reporting mechanism for committee members. This new reporting mechanism will be utilized for all upcoming Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee reports.

B. Comments from MG Robert Bray, Adjutant General RING

The agency is planning for the transition of senior leadership at the national level. Policy issues are pending in anticipation of the new appointments as of the first of the New Year.

The grant funding process of course is still taking place despite leadership transitions outside RI. It appears that this transition will be a time to consolidate and for the new administration to review how they would like to proceed with the federal grant process.

The Rhode Island National Guard 800 MHz team will receive radios to increase statewide interoperability, a major step toward linking capabilities.

Communications Working Group Director David Smith, RIEMA Chair
Director Smith would like to commend the previous chair Brian Glancy (RISP) for his leadership, technical capabilities and on his retirement. The group has met for several years at various levels focused on interoperability including the RISCO (800 MHz) radio system. The group continues to examine the appropriate authority for their ongoing deliberations.

Situational Awareness Working Group David Smith, RIEMA Chair
The Situational Awareness Group has not been able to meet consistently as a technical group and this is paramount if we want to improve in this area.

A partnership with the Rhode Island Broadcasters Association has looked at capabilities for messages on five television channels and twenty-six radio stations to interrupt broadcast, and/or a rolling ticker for public service announcements.

The group is working with partners in Maine for the site video availability reporting twice daily. A meeting to respond effectively to winter storms is a priority. Director Smith would like to recognize Peter Gaynor from Providence EMA for developing triggers for action in the event of a storm within the City and would like to incorporate them into RIEMA for a response that can be shared with the State.

Haz Mat/Decon Technical Working Group-Steve Preston-Woonsocket Fire Department

The 2008 grant was awarded but there seems to be some difficulties

in terms of processing payments and protocols. This will be addressed with RIEMA. There is still \$347,000 worth of reimbursement frozen. The Rhode Island Fire Academy continues to create programs and conduct training.

Citizen Core Group Director Smith

Staff changes were announced. Rick Andreano has taken advantage of an opportunity in Massachusetts so the group is relying on Joseph Cournoyer to cover until a person is designated to permanently fill this role.

Hospital Preparedness Planning Committee: DOH/HARI Alysia Mihalakos

The Subcommittee is still engaged in the patient tracking system tested and developed with support from additional grants from Rhode Island Hospital. The group is currently in the process of selecting 8 pilot communities/municipalities. The selected pilot communities will capture 50 percent of the state. The tracking system sets them apart because it will be in use as an everyday EMS system. The system will eliminate the need to call in patient information and will track up to 25 miles out of state. The information is encrypted and stored at HEALTH with access restricted to select individuals. There are some protocol issues that have emerged in regards to legal interpretations and mental health law. The group is currently working to address those issues.

Behavioral Health Disaster Response Network- Carol Kent MHRH

The group has been revising and updating the documents from the Family Assistance Center Plan and Family and Survivor Resource Center Plan post disaster in order to encompass an all-hazards approach (natural disasters, accidents, terrorist events).

They would like assistance in identifying sources to provide BCI checks for over 500 individuals who have been trained over the past six years. The BCI would be part of the credentialing process as more participants are being used to respond to out of state situations. This year one of the emphases will be to develop a 2-hour training of hospital staff in providing psychological aid.

Port Security-Erin Lambie, USCG

Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) cards went into effect for all New England as of October 15th and so far the process is running smooth.

Weaverâ€™s Cove Waterway Suitability Assessment â€“CG Sector Southeastern New England recently participated in a Waterway Suitability Assessment for the current Weaverâ€™s Cove offshore LNG proposal in Mount Hope Bay.

Port security grants were announced, with an outreach session on November 19th at the Providence Public Safety Complex.

The next Port Safety and Security meeting will be held on December 11th at the Providence Marriott.

Law Enforcement Working Group-Captain James Swanberg, RISP

The Rhode Island WMD Tactical Team recently conducted a two-day training session on the Block Island Ferry with members of the U.S. Coast Guard and the Civil Support Team. The Tactical Team will continue their training program to include other responder teams.

Special Populations Working Group-Kate McCarthy-Barnett, DOH

The Hurricane Shelter Accessibility Survey has been completed. The findings are currently under review and a follow-up meeting has been scheduled with RIEMA and Red Cross.

Education and training continues. The process of expanding the Special Needs Registry to include the technical and interface requirements to provide local Emergency Management access to individual city and town registry information is complete. The next technical phase will include incorporating GIS. A workgroup subcommittee has been formed to review transportation during emergencies for Rhode Islanders with special needs.

IV. New Business/ Member Comments and/or Suggestion

Department of Transportation on November 19th will hold a meeting as part of their focus on winter response. For additional information call DOT at (401) 222-5826 xt 4200

The meeting was adjourned at 10: 45 am.